

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-20 remain pending in the current application. Claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15 are independent claims. Claims 1, 4 and 9 – 12 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced through this amendment.

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

The Examiner issued an Advisory Action on April 13, 2007. The Advisory Action indicates that the Amendment filed March 22, 2007 was not entered because the amended claims did not incorporate all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

After careful review of the claims, Applicants discovered that with respect to claims 5-7, one limitation of independent claim 1 had inadvertently been left out. Applicants submitted an Amendment on April 17, 2007. Again, however, another portion of claims 5-7 were inadvertently left out. Applicants again apologize and hereby resubmit all amendments to the claims (as the previous two Amendments were not entered), including the additional missing element from previously amended claim 1 (amended to incorporate the limitation from original claim 4, inadvertently left out of the previous Amendment).

Entry of Amendment After Final Rejection

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner enter the attached amendments in that it is believed these amendments render the subject application in condition for allowance. Particularly, claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15 have been amended to be in independent form. Furthermore, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if re-written into independent form **and has admitted that limitations contained there are not taught or suggested by the prior art (see previous office actions)**. Moreover, the remaining claims have either been cancelled, or are dependent upon one of allowable independent claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15.

Therefore, by entering the attached claim amendments, the subject application will be in condition for allowance. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kudo (US 6,753,880, hereinafter Kudo). Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 4 and 9-12 have been cancelled. Furthermore, claims 2-3 have been amended to be dependent upon allowable claim 5. Therefore, this rejection has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-20 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached to the Amendment of April 17, 2007.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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